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# CONFERENCE *connection*

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**SOUTHEAST UCC Conference**



**February 1, 2018**

## ***From the Conference Minister:***

### **A Year of Discernment for the Southeast Conference**

Dear Friends,

During this year of 2018, we will begin the interim work for the Southeast Conference in earnest. The Board of Directors approved that this year will be a year of discernment for the entire conference. This is our way to seek God's Spirit into the process as we ask hard questions about the direction of the conference. This conference is a wonderful place, full of faithful and inspiring people and congregations, and yet, how we have always done things is just not working anymore. It is my hope that as we all think, pray, and dream about the conference, we will find the path that God has set for us.

There will be many opportunities for all of you to participate in this discernment process. There will be four regional meetings this spring. There will be online surveys and paper surveys. The Annual Meeting will focus on this. For this discernment process to work, we need everyone to participate in little and big ways. I am convinced that God has given someone in our conference the idea that will move us forward in new and glorious ways!

So, the first step in the discernment process is a question to you. What do you think that the conference does? You can email ([mbacchiocchi@secucc.org](mailto:mbacchiocchi@secucc.org)) or mail (PO Box 1950, Decatur, GA 30083) me your responses. Yes, I want to hear the good, the bad, and the ugly!

God is moving within and among us. It is a privilege to serve you all as you embark on this essential work.

Blessings and peace,  
Marie



## Yearbook Reporting: Submit your Church Statistics

It's time again for reporting of Yearbook statistics for the past year. The UCC Data Hub is open and ready for your submission. If you are responsible for reporting your Yearbook Statistics for your church and have not received information from the Conference, please contact Heather at [hbardole@secucc.org](mailto:hbardole@secucc.org) or 404-719-6572 to receive your churches information. Yearbook reports are due by March 7, 2018.

## Authorized Ministers Information Review

The Authorized Ministers Annual review has started. If you have not already completed yours, please do so soon. Thank you to everyone who has already filled out and returned the review. There are two ways you can return your Annual Review:

1. The preferred way is to [complete the online form](#).
2. Alternatively, you can [download a PDF](#) of the form, print and mail it to the Conference Office: PO Box 1950, Decatur, Georgia 30031.

If you have any questions, please contact the Conference Registrar at [registrar@secucc.org](mailto:registrar@secucc.org) or 404-719-572. We will be mailing out hard copies to those who have not completed the review next week. Please submit your

completed Annual Review **by March 8, 2018**. We will be following up if you do not respond.

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## Spring Grant Cycle Open

Capital Campaign Grants  
Applications are available on our website for the Spring 2018 funding cycle. Applications will be accepted January 15, 2018 thru March 05, 2018.



Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Carrole Moss, our Generosity Coordinator, at [cmoss@secucc.org](mailto:cmoss@secucc.org). We look forward to working with you and your church on your projects. Continued blessings as we journey...



## Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2018. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2018 prayer list.](#)

### Week of February 5

- Safe Harbor Family Church UCC; Flowood, Mississippi
- Dwight Andrews

- Robin Lee Fitch
- Gail McGill
- Jodi Yarini

### Week of February 12

- Garden of Grace UCC; Columbia, South Carolina
- Thomas Eckert
- Susan Mitchell
- Helen Smith
- Patricia Greeves

## Conference Transitions

- **Rev. Matt Laney** began his ministry at Virginia Highland Church, Atlanta, GA on Jan. 29, 2018.
- **Kate Stulce** will be ordained in Feb. 4, 2018 at Pilgrim UCC, Chattanooga, TN.

## Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Birmingham, AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta, GA; Garden of Grace, Columbia, SC; Peace, Clemson, SC; Sandy Creek, Lafayette, AL; United Church of Cookeville, Cookeville, TN

## News from our Local Congregations



On Monday, January 15, Christians for Justice and Peace, a Cumberland County organization with representatives from Catholic congregations and



**Pleasant Hill Community Church UCC** presented our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event. This year's theme was "A Dream of Love and Diversity," and the program featured the Youth Choir from the Cumberland County Playhouse (*above*), essays read by PHCC children, a song entitled "I Still Have a Dream," written by Marsha Stevens, and two spoken reflections - one by Michael Ruff, an actor from the Cumberland County Playhouse, and Rev. Glenna T. Shepherd, pastor of Pleasant Hill Community Church. Rev. Shepherd's Reflection was entitled, "Beloved Community: a Vision of Diversity." Other PHCC members who participated were Rev. Dr. Mark Canfield and Rev. Ted McKnight.

## Holy Trinity Nashville Featured in Local News

"The message is our motivation, not anyone's orientation..." best describes the approach of Holy Trinity Community Church in West Nashville. With its beginnings as a small Bible study for LGBTQ+ Christians and seekers in the early 1990's, Holy Trinity has grown into an established affirming congregation of The United Church of Christ denomination. (That's the liberal one! Not the one more familiar to born and bred Southerners.) Holy Trinity takes pride in its LGBTQ+ roots as it continues the journey to be a church for all persons seeking a church home. Their Sunday service combines the best of contemporary worship practice with the real world-based preaching of The Reverend Dr. Brice Thomas.

[Read the rest at Out and About Nashville](#)

## News from the Wider Church

### ACT NOW! Unite to End Racism Rally in DC

UCC General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer is inviting all conferences and congregations to join him in participating in a event sponsored by the National Council of Churches commemorating the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The event will be held on the mall in Washington, DC on April 4, 2018. There will be a worship service the afternoon before at the Greek Orthodox Church in DC. Leaders from many faith traditions will gather for worship and truth-telling, calling the nation to seek healing from our racist legacies. If you are interested in attending or in leading a group from the SEC that will travel to Washington, DC, please let Interim Conference Minister, Marie Bacchiocchi

know. Also, if you would like to organize a similar event in your area of the conference, please also contact Marie. The website for the event is: <http://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/actnow/>

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## Helpful Information from the Insurance Board

If you have experienced damage to your church property or home from any of the recent weather events, you probably have been approached by a variety of contractors and mitigation companies. Damages just from hurricanes Harvey and Irma are estimated to end up costing between \$150 billion and \$200 billion, which presents a high demand for these companies' services. It also presents a sizable opportunity for unscrupulous vendors to take advantage of churches. [Read more on our website.](#)

## Training and Learning Opportunities

### New PATHWAYS Classes Start in March

PATHWAYS Theological Education is offering courses beginning in March:

#### **UCC History & Polity for \$650.00**

**March 7-June 5, 2018 (12 Weeks + Holy Week break)**

The Rev. Dr. Anita Bradshaw will facilitate this course

#### **Level Three Course: Theology in the Public Square for \$375**

**March 7 to April 24, 2018**

The Rev. Dr. Trish Greeves is facilitating

PATHWAYS is also available to individuals who want to deepen their knowledge and Christian faith but are not following a call to authorized ministry. Learn more about each of these courses and register online at [www.pathways-ucc.org](http://www.pathways-ucc.org). If you would like more information, please contact PATHWAYS at [pathways@secucc.org](mailto:pathways@secucc.org). Please share this announcement with others.

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## Second Annual Peace UCC Youth Work Camp

A trip to Santiago, Cuba for UCC youth ages 14 and up is being planned. Rev. Tom Warren, a UCC minister who has led many trips to Cuba. The trip will take place July 21-July 28, 2018. Santiago is a beautiful and interesting city where we have mission partners to the United Church of Christ. Group leaders are Kim Miller and Ted Wilkinson. For more information about the trip please contact Tom at [reverendtom65@gmail.com](mailto:reverendtom65@gmail.com) or Rev. Tim Downs at [timothy.c.downs@gmail.com](mailto:timothy.c.downs@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events at Candler School of Theology

Candler School of Theology at Emory University is hosting a wide variety of events this winter and spring. Topics include race and gender, immigration, religion and science, the history of Methodism, the "Pope Francis effect," public health, and more. Featured events include a free symposium entitled "Religious and Scientific Perspectives on the Future of Life" on February 17 from 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., a free lecture by bell hooks: "Ending Dominator Culture: Resisting Patriarchy" on April 5, and two lunchtime lectures with David F. Ford: "Jesus in the 21st Century" on April 11 and "Reconciliation in the 21st Century" on April 18. Learn more at [candler.emory.edu](http://candler.emory.edu).

## Job Openings

### Career Opportunity! Church Relations Associates

If you are passionate for Back Bay Mission (a United Church of Christ

ministry), have existing relationships among regional or national UCC members and church leadership and are willing to travel, then consider one of two part time development and fund raising positions (Church Relations Associates) at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi Mississippi.

The successful candidate might be a recently retired UCC clergy or lay person with a passion for Back Bay Mission and/or a former Back Bay Mission Trip participant. For more detailed information, click [here](#) for complete position description. Interested persons should send resumes to Dr. Alice Graham, Executive Director, [agraham@thebackbaymission.org](mailto:agraham@thebackbaymission.org) or PO Box 288, Biloxi MS 39533

As Back Bay Mission Board Members residing in the Southeast Conference, we invite you to think about ideal candidates for these positions and ask you to please encourage them to apply. Thank you.

Mary Ruth, Pleasant Hill TN  
Wilmer Brown, Rex GA

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## Director of Music Position Opening in Marietta, GA

Pilgrimage UCC in Marietta, GA has an opening for a part-time, paid staff position as Music Director, with duties primarily on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, along with some additional time during Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter seasons. The music style of PUCC is traditional and gospel hymns, supplemented with some folk and jazz compositions. Congregational singing will be primarily led using the UCC Hymnal; therefore familiarity with this is important. The Music Director works with the Ministerial Staff, with oversight by the Worship Committee. Work is reviewed through observation, supervisory evaluation, and committee and congregational feedback for effectiveness. Providing music for wedding and funerals is *not* included in the basic responsibilities. The Music Director will be consulted regarding these and similar "extraordinary events", and will be compensated separately for the time required (details handled by the event coordinator). For full details and more information, please contact the Hiring Committee at [worship@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:worship@pilgrimageucc.org) with the subject line "Music Director Application."



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